



Lamoine Board of Selectmen

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Minutes of December 1, 2011

Chair Jo Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM

Present were: Selectmen Cynthia Donaldson, Richard Fennelly Jr., Gary McFarland, William Brann, S. Josephine Cooper; Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon

Agenda Review – No changes were proposed to the printed agenda or addendum.

Minutes of November 17, 2011 – Cynthia said she wanted to clarify that in the minutes of November 3, 2011 that it be emphasized that the motion and decision made in regard to Russell Boynton Jr. was Mr. Boynton's final chance to comply with policies. Stu said he would note it in the minutes for this evening. Cynthia moved to approve the minutes with minor corrections. Gary 2nd. **Vote in favor was 3-0 (Fennelly, Cooper abstained).**

Minutes of November 28, 2011 – Jo moved to approve as written. Bill 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Expenditure Warrant 11 – Selectmen signed expenditure warrant 11 in the amount of \$39,006.71. Stu reported the firefighter reimbursements were on the warrant, as was the bill for repairs to fire truck 405 which had been damaged last August.

Cash & Budget Report – Richard asked whether there has been any recent accumulation in the administrative legal line. Stu said there had not and there has been no recent activity that he is aware of in regard to any of the pending cases.

Checking Account Reconciliation – Jo noted the reconciliation was e-mailed earlier in the day to the Selectmen and was available for review. Selectmen signed the statement expressing satisfaction with their review of the reconciliation documents.

Tax Collector's Settlement – Stu explained that the action taken at the last regular meeting writing off a personal property tax of \$7.76 made it possible to close out the tax collector's ledger for 2009/10. Jo moved to sign the settlement document, Cynthia 2nd. **Vote in favor was 5-0.** Stu noted that foreclosure notices for the 2009/10 tax liens were mailed out last week.

Cable TV Committee Purchase Requests – Richard asked how much annual revenue is received. Stu reported in excess of \$10,000, which is more than enough to cover the proposed purchase of a good camera and lavalier microphone. Cynthia noted that she has previously asked whether some of that funding could be used elsewhere in the budget. Bill asked who was making the recommendation. Stu said it was the Cable TV Committee members, and operations manager Kimberly Grindle had researched the options available. There was a brief discussion about which camera to purchase – consensus was that the slightly more expensive model would be better. Jo moved to authorize the purchase, Gary 2nd. Cynthia suggested checking with the school to see if

there is any interest in letting students use the old camera equipment for projects. **Vote in favor was 5-0.**

Heating Assistance Program – Stu reported that many communities administer a heating assistance program, often using the same application as the General Assistance program, but allowing for a higher income level, sometimes up to 200% of the poverty level. He said if someone qualifies for General Assistance, that program would pay for heating fuel.

Jo noted that the Washington/Hancock Community Agency offers the THAW fund, and that seems more doable. She said people could be made aware of the fund which can designate funds for a specific community. Cynthia asked how much use there has been of programs in other communities. Stu said it appeared there was not a lot of utilization. Bill said he was surprised by Fairfield's numbers. Cynthia said people may be more comfortable utilizing the town office than the WHCA program, because the latter is a much larger agency. A brief discussion followed.

Jo asked what it would hurt to organize a fund. Cynthia asked if we could call the THAW Fund to see how much is available, and maybe develop something for next year for Lamoine to administer. Stu retrieved the assistance numbers from WHCA for both the THAW fund and the LiHEAP program.

It was suggested that something could be added to the town's website to encourage donations to the THAW Fund.

Sign Return Amnesty Program – Stu reported the press release he sent Monday had received a lot of press coverage, but alas, no signs have yet been returned.

Float in Blunt's Pond – Stu reported the float that was improperly placed in Blunt's Pond was removed by the deadline.

Town Report Cover Pictures – Stu reported that two submissions for the town report cover have been received thus far.

Other – Cynthia inquired whether interest was accumulating on the two unpaid demo debris account bills. Stu reported that it was, and at least one of them is fairly substantial because the bill has been outstanding since 2006.

Holiday Hours – Stu reported that he consulted with Transfer Station Manager Bill Fennelly and because Christmas falls on a Sunday, the transfer station hours could probably remain as usual, and with no extra pickup due to trash volume. There was no objection.

Stu asked if the town office should be open on New Year's Eve, since it's highly unlikely there will be any business to conduct. Selectmen had no objection to closing on Saturday, December 31, 2011.

Vacation Request – Stu requested to take two vacation days on December 27 and 28, 2011. There was no objection by the board.

Budget Workshop – Among areas of discussion were:

- Code Enforcement Officer Compensation – the line will remain the same as this year and the Budget Committee was told that there may be some adjustment at the time of contract negotiation
- Tuition – Both the town auditor and RSU 24 agree that the Education Fund could be used to fund the shortfall for the current fiscal year for tuition costs at non-RSU high schools. Stu reported that an article that he drafted up to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to add the expected tuition costs to the school assessment was advised against by both the auditor and RSU 24, so the draft town meeting warrant has an article to specifically raise and appropriate funding needed to the excess tuition costs.

The Budget Committee meets on Monday, December 5, 2011 at 6:30 PM.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Stu Marckoon, Adm. Asst.